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REPORTS

OF THE TOWN

OFFICERS

AND OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

OF THE

TOWN OF CORNISH,

FOR THE YEAR

Ending March 1, 1870.

CLAREMONT, N. H.:

PRINTED BY THE CLAREMONT MANUFACTURING CO.

1870.

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State of New Hampshire.

L. S. To the inhabitants of the Town of Cornish in the County of Sullivan, in said State, qualified to vote in town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town House in said Cornish, on Tuesday the eighth day of March next, at nine of the clock, in the forenoon, to act upon the following subjects:

1. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.
2. To choose a Town Clerk.
3. To choose a Representative to represent this town in the General Court of this State.
4. To bring in your votes for Governor, Councillor, Senator, Railroad Commissioner, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and one County Commissioner.
5. To choose Selectmen and all other necessary town officers.
6. To raise such sum of money as may be necessary to defray town charges the ensuing year.
7. To raise such sum of money as may be necessary to make and repair highways and bridges the ensuing year.
8. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to pay existing claims against the town.
9. To see if the town will vote to dispense with the services of a Liquor Agent the ensuing year.
10. To see if the town will vote that the school money for the ensuing year be divided, one-third equally to each district, one-third by the scholar, and one-third by valuation or in such other way as the town may direct.
11. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise toward putting in a dam near the Davis mill-site on Blowmedown Brook, for the purpose of protecting road near said brook.
12. To see if the town will vote that a discount be made to those persons who shall pay their taxes within such periods as the town may limit, and to fix the amount of discount on the same.
13. To take the sense of the qualified voters on the following questions, to wit:
Is it expedient that a Convention be called to revise the Constitution?
That said Convention be limited in its compensation and mileage to that now allowed members of the Legislature for travel and six days attendance, and that the same be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, and the Governor be authorized to draw his warrant on the treasury, therefor, and that the Legislature recommend that the action of the Convention be limited to the following particulars:
 - 1st. To abolish all religious tests as qualifications for office.
 - 2d. To diminish the number of members of the House of Representatives.
 - 3d. To increase the number of members of the Senate so that the whole number shall not exceed thirty-five.
14. To see what sum of money, if any, the town will vote to raise to widen and repair the road on what is called Ayer's Hill, near Claremont line.

Given under our hands and seals this nineteenth day of February, A. D. 1870.

LOUIS T. CHASE,	} Selectmen of Cornish
NORMAN E. HEBARD,	
DANA N. MORGAN,	

125.75-0
 70
 1227.50

FINANCIAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OF CORNISH,

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING MARCH 1, 1870.

The amount of Tax required to be assessed by law, and by vote of the Town, is as follows :

For State Tax,	\$2778 00	
County Tax,	1167 44	
Schools, as required by law,	1157 50	
To defray Town charges,	1800 00	
Pay existing claims against town,	2000 00	
Interest on existing claims,	1200 00	
Tax on dogs,	61 00	
Percentage about 2½ per cent.,	254 19	
	<hr/>	
Whole amount taxed to Town,		\$10418 13
School-house tax district No. 1,	780 47	
“ “ “ “ 4,	26 25	
Non-resident highway tax,	111 24	
	<hr/>	917 96
		<hr/>
Total,		11336 09

The Selectmen have received and paid into the Treasury the following additional sums.

For cash refunded by Mrs. Sarah Lathrop,	24 25
Support of county paupers,	83 46
Liquor sold	79 43
Casks sold	5 50
J. M. Davidson, trustee of Foss Fund,	112 80
Savings Bank tax for 1869,	126 21
Railroad tax for 1869	51 07

For Literary Fund for 1869	70 00	
	<hr/>	552 72
		<hr/>
		11888 81
Deduct State tax,	2778 00	
" County tax	1167 44	
	<hr/>	3945 44
		<hr/>
Leaving a balance of		\$7943 37

We find orders drawn on the Treasurer as follows:

For support of Schools—

Wm. C. Hart, district No. 1,	128 12	
Wm. E. Westgate, " 2,	88 84	
J. B. Hildreth, " 3,	70 75	
E. P. Bartlett, " 4,	47 92	
C. F. Huggins, " 5,	55 18	
S. Coburn, " 6,	179 98	
M. Stevens, " 7,	109 95	
F. E. Freeman, " 8,	116 31	
L. H. Dow, " 9,	65 00	
M. M. Williams, " 10,	83 38	
N. Smith, " 11,	81 58	
O. Russ, " 12,	23 62	
M. Coburn, " 13,	61 68	
J. M. Root, " 15,	16 95	
G. C. Dean, " 16,	47 27	
H. C. Freeman, No. 14, Claremont,	7 83	
J. B. Pike, No. 1, Plainfield,	4 79	
	<hr/>	1189 15

For Support of county paupers—

Mrs. Butman.	4 00	
John Bell,	46 54	121 950
Lydia Allen,	52 00	
Transient paupers,	3 60	
	<hr/>	106 14

For support of town paupers—

Cynthia Jackson,	45 00	
Bell Comings and child,	182 75	
Maria Williams	24 00	
Sarah Lathrop,	24 25	
George Richardson,	71 85	
Catherine Chase,	40 00	
	<hr/>	387 85

For plank and timber—

N. E. Hebard,	1 44
D. N. Morgan,	15 66
J. A. Kendrick,	18 95
F. D. Nevens,	22 59
N. C. Sturtevant,	16 54
John White,	3 43
H. S. Chase,	12 00
H. A. Day,	18 82
E. P. Bartlett,	55
T. A. Allen,	1 00
Charles Gilkey,	5 33
E. O. Goward,	5 00
E. T. Ayres,	8 75
Moody Hook,	30 21
Wm. Balloch,	6 80
C. Pike,	4 40
Wm. J. Huggins,	3 12
H. F. Bartlett,	11 78
N. O. Bugbee,	4 88
G. D. Kenyon,	1 28
C. E. Jackson,	7 60
H. M. Weld,	13 75
L. Benway,	5 32
L. Martindale,	2 67
E. O. Cole,	3 72
N. C. Sturtevant,	2 73
J. L. Hilliard,	10 51
<hr/>	
238 83	

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Geo. W. Hunt, Superintending Sch. Com. services,	50 00
B. W. Sanborn, surveyors' and collector's, books,	5 00
Uriel Comings, setting glass Town House,	5 20
F. D. Nevens, Liquor Agent services,	30 00
Wm. C. Poole, Labor on highway,	7 12
E. W. Collins, jr., entertainment selectmen, auditors,	15 20
Claremont Manufacturing Co., Town Reports 1868,	35 00
G. W. Lull, over-tax. 1869,	4 89
Philenda Ayers, Pass for B. F. Bugbee,	6 00
C. R. Leslie, labor on highway,	9 45
H. S. Chase, labor on highway,	9 00
H. S. Chase, damage to plow,	4 00
Orlando Powers, auditor's services, 1868,	15 50

J. M. Davidson, auditor's services, 1868,	7 50
Wm. Balloch, auditor's services, 1868,	6 00
J. A. Kendrick, School House Tax Dist. No. 4,	25 00
James Kelley, over-tax, 1869,	2 45
H. M. Kimball, repairing culvert,	72 25
S. A. Tracy, Selectman's and Sheriff's services,	7 95
Chas. T. Smith, labor on highway,	30 54
Orra A. Kelley, repairing bridge,	15 30
Benj. S. Smith, labor on highway,	47 76
E. P. Bartlett, damage to carriage,	2 00
Edwin H. Smith, damage to plow,	2 00
Edwin H. Smith, labor on highway,	8 75
Thomas A. Allen, labor on highway,	22 12
Benj. Smith, labor on highway,	28 57
J. J. Flint, labor on highway,	7 00
Morrill Wheeler, over-tax, 1869,	16 30
Wm. D. Burr, watering trough,	3 00
J. B. Farnsworth, Att'y, fees,	20 04
Charles Williams, labor on highway,	2 00
N. E. Hebard, labor on highway,	9 25
D. N. Morgan, labor on highway,	30 00
C. P. Jenney, damage to sleigh, 1868,	2 50
E. T. Ayers, labor on highway,	47 00
Moody Hook, labor on highway,	10 50
Oliver Russ, labor on highway,	9 00
Aaron Smith, over-tax, 1869,	8 15
Harrison Leslie, damage to wagon,	3 00
J. M. Davidson, recording deeds,	3 95
J. M. Davidson, gate to grave-yard	7 85
Bradley Burr, labor on highway,	82 00
D. N. Morgan, nails and irons for fence,	3 16
D. N. Morgon, labor on highway,	53 50
J. M. Root, labor on highway,	5 50
Amon Royce, labor on highway,	12 25
Jonas Hastings, building abutment at D. H. Chase's bridge,	125 00
Philo Norris, labor on highway,	3 00
Philo Norris, pass across field,	5 00
C. Pike, damage to carriage,	5 50
C. Pike, labor on highway,	46 66
Wm. J. Huggins, labor on highway,	16 94
Wm. W. Poole, labor on highway,	14 62
L. Martindale, bank wall,	183 00
Quartus Fletcher. watering trough,	3 00
Quartns Fletcher, labor on highway,	1 00

Milton Wyman, labor on highway,	4 00
L. T. Chase, labor on highway,	156 85
Charles Kelley, over-tax, 1869,	2 45
Norman O. Bugbee, labor on highway,	6 00
Nathan Harris, old orders renewed,	232 00
G. D. Kenyon, labor on highway,	11 36
G. D. Kenyon, abatement taxes for 1865, 1866, 1867,	47 96
G. D. Kenyon, non res. highway tax,	8 62
H. S. Chase, labor on highway,	32 90
Chester Pike, pass through field,	8 00
Chester Pike, damage to sleigh,	6 00
Lyman Porter, over-tax, 1869,	8 15
H. A. Weld, over-tax, 1869,	11 41
H. G. P. Cross, over-tax, 1869,	8 15
Dan'l Whittemore, labor on highway,	1 50
Geo. C. Dean, pass through field,	5 00
Wm. D. Lear, watering trough,	3 00
Moody Hook, labor on highway,	20 25
H. P. Raymond, damage to sled,	2 82
Dan'l Chase, notifying Jurors,	6 00
H. C. Chamberlain, entertainment Selectmen,	3 75
John White, labor on highway,	5 25
Philo Norris, services with hearse,	40 00
B. S. Smith, labor on highway,	5 25
Benj. Smith, labor on highway,	4 75
L. Martindale, labor on highway,	5 25
Wm. Balloch, services law agent,	24 00
D. P. Deming, over-tax, 1869,	1 96
F. D. Nevens, abatement taxes. 1869,	70 20
F. D. Nevens, abatement school-house tax, 1869,	780 47
Jonas Hastings, non res. highway tax, paid in labor,	54 23
Jonas Hastings, abatement taxes, 1868,	114 20
W. C. Smith, sheep killed by dogs,	9 00
John Johnson, labor on highway,	3 90
Hiram York, damage to plow,	5 00
John R. Sargent, labor on highway,	2 42
D. N. Morgan, expense at Charlestown and taking affidavits,	7 80
L. T. Chase, stationery and postage,	7 10
W. P. Ryan, entertainment for selectmen and auditors,	65 00.
F. D. Nevens, non res. highway tax paid in labor,	62 59
Edward Bryant, repairing Mercer bridge,	115 00

Total of Incidentals

\$ 3183 76

Town Officers' Services.

Louis T. Chase, services as Selectman, 1869,	84 00
Norman E. Hebard, services as Selectman, 1869,	72 00
Dana N. Morgan, services as Selectman, 1869,	97 85
Daniel Chase, services as Town Clerk, 1869,	38 00
Franklin D. Nevens, Collector's services,	75 00
James M. Davidson, trustee of Foss Fund, 1869,	6 00
Henry M. Day, Supt. School Committee, 1869,	55 00
J. M. Davidson, services as Treasurer, 1869,	40 00

\$ 467 75

Total amount of orders drawn, \$ 5573 48

RECAPITULATION.

For support of Schools,	1189 15
county paupers,	106 14
town paupers.	387 85
plank and timber,	238 83
incidental expenses of the town,	3183 76
town officers' services,	467 75

Total amount of orders drawn, \$ 5573 48

Which deducted from above leaves a balance of \$2369 88

AGENT'S REPORT.

The undersigned Agent to prosecute, defend or settle all suits at law, in which the town may have an interest, would report as follows :

The execution against Eri Richardson, mentioned in my last report, has not yet been collected. Mr. Richardson has since deceased. I have caused an administrator to be appointed, and I am informed by counsel that there is a fair prospect that the amount of the execution now about eighty dollars (\$ 80 00) may be collected.

The suit of Bell Comings *vs.* G. A. Billings, in the Windsor, County Court, reported last year as continued at the request of defendant's counsel, was in order for trial at the May Term, 1869. The plaintiff was in a very

feeble state of health and not able to attend court, and by the advice of counsel the case was settled, defendant paying twenty-five dollars (\$ 25 00), each party to pay their own costs. Miss Comings has since deceased.

Which is respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM BALLOCH, *Agent*.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts,

Or Am't received by the Treasurer, for year ending Mar. 1, 1870:

Mar. 12, 1869,	Rec'd of John B. Chase, former Treasurer,	4583 88
Aug. 11,	" Selectmen, for liquor sold	79 93
Nov. 22,	" Bradley Burr, highway taxes,	14 00
Dec. 20,	" Selectmen, Railroad Tax,	51 07
"	" Selectmen Bank Tax,	126 21
"	" Selectmen Literary Fund,	70 00
"	" Interest on School Fund,	28 24
"	" Wm. Balloch—Billings Suit,	25 00
Jan. 1, 1870	" Selectmen County Pauper money,	37 20
"	" Trustees of Foss Fund,	112 80
Jan. 5,	" Jonas Hastings, Int. on Note,	142 00
Feb. 22,	" Selectmen County Pauper money,	46 26
"	" Interest on proceeds of auc- tion sales,	3 26
Feb. 25,	" Selectmen for liquor casks,	5 50
"	" Selectmen money refunded by Mrs. Lathrop,	24 25
"	" F. D. Nevens, collector, Interest on taxes,	46 24
"	" Jonas Hastings, former collector,	988 73
"	" F. D. Nevens collector, 1869,	6679 36

\$ 13063 43

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid as principal on old orders,	1728 55
Interest on old orders,	2028 29
Principal on new orders,	5264 96
	<hr/>
	\$ 9021 80
Balance in hands of the Treasurer,	4041 63

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Amount of liabilities of the town as per last year's report,	25062 37
Deduct am't of old orders paid in cash,	1728 55
Also am't of old orders paid by new orders drawn on Treasurer,	232 00
	<hr/> 1960 55
	<hr/>
Outstanding orders, 1869,	23101 82
Due School Dist., No. 14,	308 59
	30 45
	<hr/>
Total amount of liabilities,	\$ 23340 86

ASSETS.

Notes and Assets in hands of Treasurer,	4041 63
Interest due on same,	140 94
Due from J. Hastings, former collector,	578 35
Due from F. D. Nevens, collector	711 29
Due from Harvey, Lewis and Hollis Knight, for expense for support of Nancy Knight,	188 32
Execution <i>vs.</i> Eri Richardson—say	80 00
	<hr/> 5740 53
	<hr/>
Indebtedness of the town over and above assets,	\$ 17600 33

SCHOOL FUNDS.

Amount of funds in hands of Treasurer, \$470 87

THE JACOB FOSS LEGACY.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT.

Sept. 14, 1866, Received of the Executors of the will of Jacob Foss, deceased, late of Charlestown, Mass.,	\$2820 00
Received interest on Legacy for year ending Sept. 17, 1869,	169 20
Paid the Selectmen of Cornish to appropriate for the support of Poor of said town,	112 80
	<hr/>
	56 40
Balance of Interest, 1868,	27 21
	<hr/>
	83 61

Paid for Flags and putting up said Flags, 1869, '70, 81 35

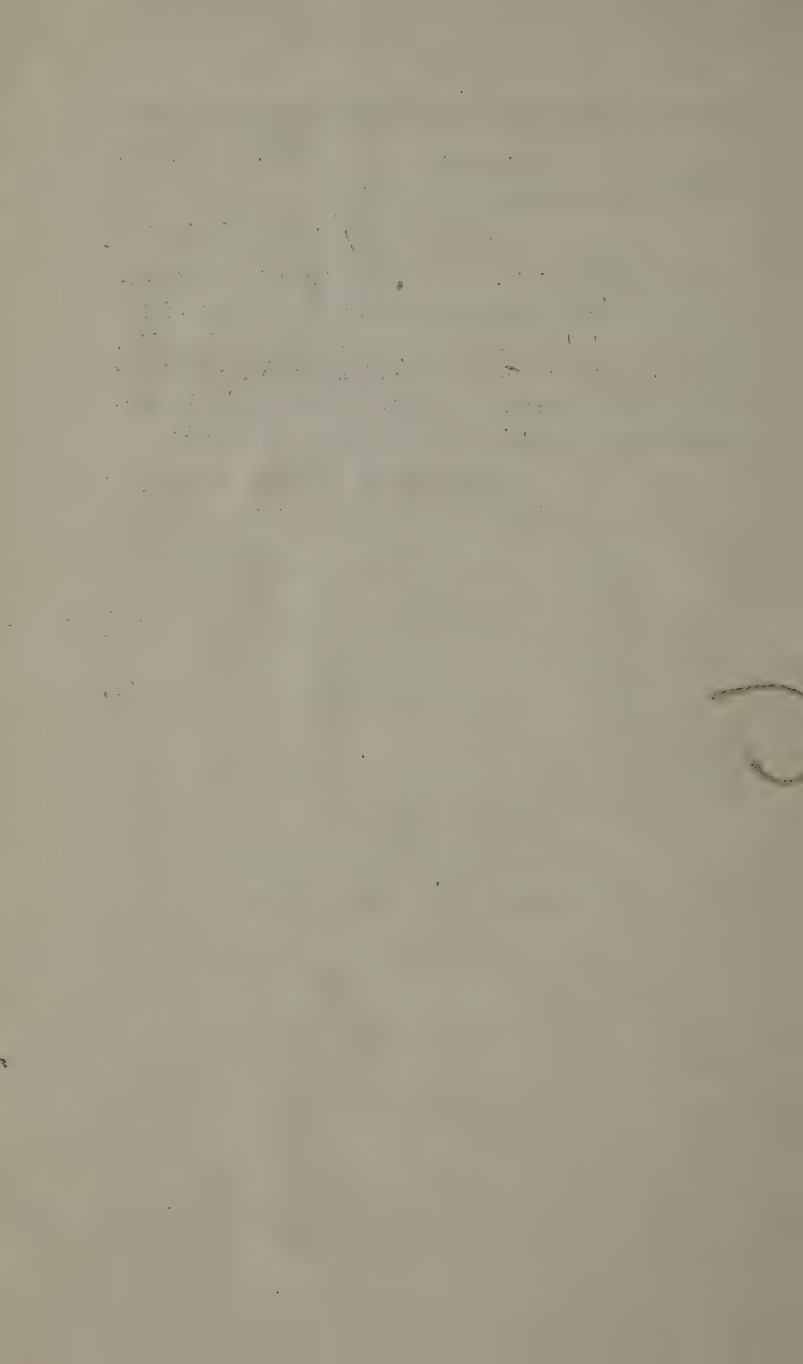
Leaving balance, \$ 2 26

Which is respectfully submitted, by

JAMES M. DAVIDSON, *Agent.*

The undersigned, having been appointed by the Selectmen of Cornish, Auditors to audit the account of the officers of said town for the year ending March 1st, 1870, having attended to the duties assigned them, would say that they have found the accounts as exhibited in the foregoing reports accurately cast and properly vouched for.

WILLIAM BALLOCH, }
JOHN B. CHASE, } *Auditors.*



REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

CITIZENS OF CORNISH:

Having attended to the duties assigned to me the past year, agreeably with law and custom, I submit the following as my report:

There have been 28 schools the past year,—taught in the 16 districts. The number of different scholars is 312. Twenty-five different teachers have been employed;—20 of whom were females, and five males. Five teachers were novices in the business; 20 were more or less experienced.

Certificates were granted in every case applied for,—although with hesitancy in one instance; but in that case the teacher was watched closely, and I saw no cause to regret the course I had taken. In fact, although it is of course necessary that a teacher should be more or less familiar with the subjects taught, yet, if you were to be present at the examination of teachers and should afterwards visit them in the school-room, you would, I think, be very much surprised to see that their “standing” in examination is no criterion to judge by, as to their efficiency in school. It is a fact that many of our best and oldest teachers, those that stand the highest, as such, in the opinion of the community, pass the poorest examinations.

I think our schools will compare favorably with previous years, still they are not what they ought to be. And with whom is the fault? I do not exactly coincide with the generally received opinion, which seems to be, that it lies entirely with the teachers. It is a fact, which remains intact, that we do not *pay* our teachers enough. The men and women, under whose charge we place our children and youth for the purpose of mental and moral culture,—at that critical period of their lives in which the character is formed, when the impressions received are immediately stamped

upon and become a part of that character, receive a smaller compensation for their services, than those engaged in any other pursuit. If a man should go to the store to buy a barrel of flour, and say that he must have it for five dollars, very likely he could get it;—the store-keeper has flour to sell at all prices. Now what would be said of the consistency of that man, if he should complain that he has not got the very best of flour? *I say* it is a parallel case. But I do not wish to be understood as saying that the fault is entirely with the public; sometimes you have paid good wages and got cheated; and this brings me to a point of which I wish to speak, and that is the choice of

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.

See to it, that you have men of judgment for prudential committees. If they are chosen in all districts, as they are where I am acquainted, two or three boys generally manage affairs on the night of school-meeting. I believe they have as much to do with the standing of our schools as any body. They should seek the very best qualified teachers, and no agent should employ one, unless he has the most certain evidence that the person proposing to teach is, in every respect, thoroughly qualified. The last twenty-five cents a week often has a good deal to do in deciding between the merits of two different teachers. The practice of hiring poor teachers at low wages, is the poorest kind of economy. A short term for our children to learn what they ought and as they ought, is far preferable to a long one in which to learn many things that will have to be corrected at some subsequent term, or our scholars acquire an education which will reflect no credit upon those from whom they have received instruction.

One of the first qualifications of a teacher should be the ability to govern properly. Employ only such teachers as you know, or have every reason to believe will properly discipline the school; and in this department the district should sympathize deeply with the teacher. If many find it difficult to properly govern and discipline their own children—how much more difficult must the task of the teacher be, who has so many under his care, of different dispositions, and trained under entirely dissimilar circumstances, and expect them, at the same time, to instruct as well as govern.

TEACHERS.

In addressing a few words to you, I do so as one who has been "through the mill," and I can only claim, for what suggestions I may make, that they are brought to mind by the result of my experience, together with what opportunity I have had for observa-

tion, during my acquaintance, in different capacities, with our schools.

To say that you have been all equally successful would be untrue. Extraneous circumstances, beyond the control of the teacher, often modify, to a very great extent, the prosperity of a school. Sometimes these are favorable to the instructor. When this is the case, he may have a good school, even though his qualifications be of only ordinary character. While on the other hand, if these influences are against the teacher,—then his school may be only a partial success,—even though he be possessed of tact, energy and literary qualifications to a large degree. These qualifying circumstances should always be taken into account, in judging of the merit or demerit of a school teacher.

We have been favored with some excellent teachers,—both as instructors and as disciplinarians; but, as a whole, our teachers have not been all that could be desired,—although they may have been all that could be expected. We cannot command, as a general thing, the services of the first class teachers, on account of the short sessions of our schools, and the meager and insufficient salaries we pay. Even if a person has all the qualifications—both natural and acquired, for a model teacher, it is not to be expected he will have the best success when he is employed only two or three months in the year; the remaining portion of his time being devoted to other and perhaps entirely different pursuits. Of course it is to be expected that such will seek situations where they can have more steady employment and better compensation for their services, or else engage in some other pursuit. I think, when we consider the unfavorable circumstances to which I have alluded, we ought not to complain of our board of teachers. I think they have been, with very few exceptions, faithful to their mission, and earnest in the discharge of their responsible duties.

Teachers, as a general thing, I think, are too much confined to their text-books. Many seem to think, because they find a certain series of text-books in the school, that they must not go outside of those books, in the least degree,—but must swallow them whole, verbatim et literatim et blunderatim. This is wrong entirely. The text-books are for you to use so far as they are correct, and you should exercise your own judgment and common sense as to what to accept, and what to reject, and let your investigations into the various branches be occasionally interspersed with suggestions of your own, not found in any text-book. You will find this has a tendency to awaken a new interest in the pupil, and induce him to make a practical application of his knowledge. If he

sees that, in investigating the subject of fractions, for instance, you confine yourself entirely to what is found in the text-book, he very naturally supposes that all that is required of him is that he be able to give what rules and definitions and perform what examples he finds on a certain number of pages of his book, devoted to that subject. He thinks that what examples he finds here, are all the examples in fractions he has got to perform in his lifetime, and therefore, the sooner they are done, the better,—having no idea that he is to apply the principles there inculcated, to solve any problems outside of his book.

I notice another fault in teachers, which is, I think, almost universal; and that is the habit of putting “leading questions;” that is, asking questions in such a way as to indicate by the question what the answer is or ought to be, so that the scholar can’t very well help answering it,—even though he may have a very vague idea of the subject, indeed. This, of course, suits the pupil first rate. He can make better recitations in this way. You ought to be careful in this respect. We have noticed it often in the examination of schools.

I think this, more than any thing else, causes that lamentable lack of independence in the scholar, which is so observable, in so many of our schools. Allow a stranger to question them on some of the simple subjects, and they are unable to tell any thing about them, simply because the stranger fails to ask the questions in the same manner that their teacher has done. I have seen a class in Arithmetic questioned in involution and evolution, and they would answer every question and perform every example correctly, and still I was satisfied they really knew very little about it. They could not tell me how many rods, in length, of fence, it would take to enclose a square field containing eighty-one square rods; nor even the distance between two adjacent corners.

You should not be satisfied, if your scholars are merely able to give what rules and definitions they find in their books; but *drill* them thoroughly, present the subject in a different light, and do not leave it until they understand it completely. This will, of course, necessitate the going over of less ground; but your motto should be “not how much, but how well.” It is a much rarer sight to see a school that has gone *thoroughly* as far as they have gone, than it is to find one that has made a superficial survey of a good deal of ground; and, for myself, I hardly ever ask *how far* a class has advanced, but try to find out the degree of *proficiency* they have acquired in their studies, as far as they have gone; and I think this a good criterion by which to judge of a teacher’s capability.

SCHOOL APPARATUS.

I think this town is, probably, about as innocent as any that can be found, of having any "unnecessary" school apparatus—a few wooden benches and an old cracked stove, usually complete the inventory. Every district should at least, furnish a globe, and text books for the teacher, still there is not one of either in town, to my knowledge. Whenever there is a change of books, one should be provided for the teacher; they are changing from one town to another, and it is quite a bill of expense for them to provide themselves with one of each kind used, and they ought not to be without one.

In presenting the following particular report of each district I will only say, that I have reported things as I saw them, and, that in judgment, I do not pretend to be immaculate—I was disabled on the 12th of Jan., with a fractured patella, and Dr. Geo. W. Hunt was appointed to examine and report upon the schools then in session.

District No. 1.—"BALLOCH'S"

Amount of school money, \$128.12. Summer term. This school was visited but once, on account of a misunderstanding as to the time of its close, and therefore, I cannot report progress. Miss Densmore may have done her duty, but the district have not. The parents have neglected an important trust. To send scholars from comfortable homes, to an old dilapidated school room like this, is a state of things, which for an opulent district like this, is simply abominable. The Winter term was commenced by Mr. Charles H. Newell, of Plainfield. Mr. Newell passed a good examination, and seemed enthusiastic at the prospect of becoming a school teacher. I was fearful, however, at my first visit, that he would fail to bring his school under a proper discipline, which proved to be the case, and his school closed at the end of three weeks suddenly and prematurely. In governing a school a teacher must begin with the "back row" of seats. The school was finished by Mr. Orra C. Davis, of Meriden. Although visited but once, yet from appearances at that time, and subsequent reports from citizens of the district, I have no hesitation in saying that it was a good school.

District No. 2.—"ABOVE THE BRIDGE."

Amount of school money, \$88.84. The Summer term was commenced by Miss Lucy A. Miller, of Plainfield. She is an experienced teacher, and at my first visit, there was every indication of

a successful school. On account of the sickness of a friend, she was obliged to leave the school after 4 weeks. Miss Hattie J. Hildreth, was employed to complete the term, and the closing examination was entirely satisfactory. For suggestions as to "school edifice" see district No. 1.

The Winter term was taught by Miss Ella A. Page, of Lisbon. At my first visit I found every thing working harmoniously and had no doubt but this would prove to be one of our best schools. This district shows a commendable spirit in lengthening out their term by donations of wood and board, although I think it would be much better to give the money instead, and furnish the teacher a steady boarding place.

District No. 3.—"STEPHEN A. TRACY'S."

Amount of school money. \$70.75. The Summer term was taught by Miss Ella S. Morrill, of Plainfield. I think this school was very well governed; but there seemed to be a lack of efficiency in conducting recitations, also in explanations. The teacher had no text books, which, I think in part accounts for the unsatisfactory appearance of the school at both visits. It is impossible for a teacher who has to stand beside a reading class in order to look over, or to depend on a scholar for a book during the recitation, when, perhaps, there are not more than one or two in the class, to do as well as she would under different circumstances.

Winter term taught by Miss Hattie S. Hildreth. The sub committee did not receive notice of the time of the closing of this school, therefore it was visited but once and no report can be made of it. Miss H. has taught this school several terms, a fair indication that the district appreciate her services.

District No. 4.—"DINGLETON."

Amount of school money \$47.92. The Summer and Fall terms were taught by Miss Susie A. Holbrook, of Claremont. While many would have failed to have made so small a school all that is desirable, she succeeded admirably. The school was under good discipline, and thorough instruction throughout the year, and the closing examinations, interspersed with singing and declamations, and witnessed by quite a number of the citizens, were highly commendable to all concerned.

District No. 5.—"CAPT. SETH JOHNSON'S."

Amount of school money, \$55.18. Miss Luzetta S. Comings taught this school in the Summer. She is a school teacher of the first order. Her literary qualifications are such as to enable her

to be entirely independent of text books. She has a rare faculty of imparting instruction, not merely teaching a superficial survey of the subjects under consideration; but going to the very bottom so that no principle is left untouched; this, combined with a quiet, easy, pleasant manner in the school-room, a faculty of associating pleasantly with her pupils, all conspire to place her in the front rank among teachers. Such teachers are much cheaper at \$20 per month than many at \$9.

Winter term taught by Miss A. Louise Smith, of Plainfield. Her school appeared quite well at the commencement of the term, and I was encouraged to hope that the work so well begun here, might be sustained.

District No. 6.—“FLATT.”

Amount of school money, \$179.98. The Summer term was taught by Miss S. Annie Bryant. Miss B. needs no encomiums from me. She brings to her work a long experience, which, combined with tact, energy and industry will make a teacher successful under almost any circumstances. Although her school was large, composed mostly of small scholars, and placed in a dilapidated room, the tumble down benches and cheerless walls conspiring to irregularity and disorder; yet by her uncommon executive ability the school was orderly and the closing examination, well attended by citizens of the district, was all that could be required.

The Winter term was under the instruction of Homer P. Lewis of West Claremont. The school was quite large and there were quite a good many very good, and a few extra scholars in it. I think it a lamentable fact that this district do not feel able to support a graded school.

District No. 7.—“CENTER.”

Amount of school money, \$109.95. Miss Ada E. Ayers taught the Summer term, it being her first experience as a teacher. I think that Miss Ayers, with a little more attention to literary qualifications combined with experience, will make a very good school teacher.

The Winter term was taught by Martin L. Bruce. It took no practiced eye to see, at my first visit, that this school would be all that could be desired. It was plainly discernible that he was more of a scientific teacher than falls to the lot of every district in Cornish.

District No. 8.—“GOWARD’S.”

Amount of school money, \$116.01. Miss Lettie E. Hook commenced her experience as school teacher for the Summer term.

Although there are some pretty good scholars in this district; yet the majority of the school is of rather "doubtful material," and therefore, it could not be expected to appear as well as some schools. I think a glance at her record of attendance would have a tendency to convince any one that her scholars were remarkable for regularity and punctuality.

The Winter term was taught by Charles D. Nevens. Mr. N. was also inexperienced. At my visit at the beginning of the term, every thing appeared orderly, and I thought he had at that time succeeded very well, in bringing his school into working order.

District No. 9.—"TOWN-HOUSE."

Amount of school money, \$65. The Summer term was taught by Miss Clement, of Claremont. Although she is an old and experienced teacher; yet she failed to bring her school under proper discipline, consequently her closing examination, attended by several citizens, was unsatisfactory to all concerned.

Winter term, Miss Jennie Johnson teacher. At my visit, at the first of the term, Miss Johnson seemed to have brought "order out of chaos," and every thing seemed to be working harmoniously.

District No. 10.—"EDMINSTER."

Amount of school money, \$83.38. Summer and Fall terms were both under the supervision of Miss Luella M. Freeman. There are several large scholars in this district, and under Miss F's instruction, these were very interesting and profitable schools. I think she has the ability to instruct and discipline to a very large degree. This district has been very fortunate in its schools the past year.

District No. 11.—"CITY."

Amount of school money, \$81.58. Miss Alice V. Powers taught this school, Summer and Winter. Miss P. is an accomplished scholar and possesses the faculty of imparting instruction to others, in such a manner that it cannot fail of making a lasting impression. The appearance of the school, both terms, was highly commendable. Her scholars were students, obedient and wide awake. In no school in town have I witnessed more enthusiasm on the part of the pupils than here. At the close, the teacher subjected her scholars to a rigid and thorough examination in the different branches to which attention had been paid, and they acquitted themselves in an entirely satisfactory manner. I can unreservedly indorse the teachers remark in the register, that the "opprobrium that has so long clung to this school, has found no place with it this year."

District No. 12.—“POPPYSQUASH.”

Amount of School money, \$23.62. But one school has been in session, which was in the hands of Miss Jennie E. Sisson. This school is quite small, the scholars small and generally quite backward, as might be expected considering the advantages they have enjoyed, yet they seemed eager to learn and made good improvement. Miss Sisson proved herself faithful and efficient, and I have no hesitancy in surmising that, with the requisite experience, she will make a very good school teacher.

District No. 13.—“N. A. DEMING'S.”

Amount of school money, \$61.68. Miss Mary E. Churchill taught this school in Summer. I did not receive notice of the close of the school in season to visit it at the closing examination. I thought at my visit at the first of the term, a little inattention to discipline apparent. This is always detrimental to the welfare of a school. I was sorry not to have been able to visit it at its close. The winter term was taught by Miss Alice A. Austin, of Windsor, Vt. This school was visited but once. I was intending to visit it for the second time the day that I got hurt. I am unable to report what progress was made. I was afraid, however, Miss Austin was hardly as energetic as could be wished. It is my humble opinion that this school-house needs not “reconstruction,” but would simply suggest that it be “razed to the ground.”

District No. 14.—“HEMPYARD.”

Amount of school money, \$36.45. There has been no school in this district the last year. My understanding is, that there has been no organization there.

District No. 15.—“JOHN M. ROOT'S.”

Amount of School money, \$16.95. But one school has been in session. This was taught by Marion Rogers. I visited it but once, and coincided with the opinion of the district, that under the circumstances, they were expending their money (what little they have) as judiciously as could be expected.

District No. 16.—“TEXAS.”

Amount of school money, \$47.27. This school was taught, Summer and Winter by Miss Malvina L. Fletcher, of Plainfield. She has an easy, quiet manner in the school-room, which, combined with a commendable executive ability, and an affable and pleasant way of associating with her pupils and patrons, makes her a popular and profitable teacher. Her closing examinations, well attended, were very interesting.

The following scholars having attended school one term without having an absent mark are deserving of a place on the

ROLL OF HONOR.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Minnie L. Balloch,	Angie E. Weld, 2 terms.
Anna L. Ford,	Frank H. Weld.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Carlie D. Royce.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Bertie G. Wilder.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Julia A. Cole,	Amos S. Chase,
Dora B. Chase, 2 terms.	Orwin A. Huggins,
Lizzie A. Hardy,	Freddie M. Hardy.
Nellie A. Hardy,	

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Ella Bailey, 2 terms.	Ida M. Mitchell.
Edith M. Coburn,	

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Ella M. Ayers,	Elzi B. Westgate.
Laura A. Ayers,	

DISTRICT NO. 8.

Arthur Penniman, 2 terms.	Norman Penniman, 2 terms.
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DISTRICT NO. 10.

Edwin A. Fairbanks,	David H. Lamberton.
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DISTRICT NO. 11.

Nettie M. Ashley, 2 terms.	Nellie E. Morgan,
Walter E. Bowen,	Wentworth M. Smith,
George F. Burbee,	Zera W. Smith.

DISTRICT NO. 13.

Addie M. York, 2 terms.	Emma L. York.
Ellen A. Coburn,	

DISTRICT NO. 16.

Hattie B. Burr.

In conclusion, I can but express the hope, that the cause of education will receive that attention and fostering care, which the importance of the subject demands.

HENRY M. DAY, *Supt. Committee.*

Cornish, N. H. Feb. 26, 1870.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No. of District	No. of Terms.	Prudential Com.	Teachers.	No. of Weeks.	No. of Scholars.	Ins. of Tardiness.	Ins. of Dismissal.	Visits by S. Com.	Visits by P. Com.	Citizens & others.	Aver. attendance.
1	1	William C. Hart	Frank A. Densmore	10 21	5 3	2 1	7 18				
	2		Orra C. Davis	9 23	63 9	2 3	3 21				
2	1	Wm. E. Westgate	Lucy A. Miller and Hattie J. Hildreth	10 8	6 2	2 0	4 7				
	2		Ella A. Page	11 14	31 1	2 1	3 11				
3	1	Jas. B. Hildreth	Ella S. Morrill	10 9	15 20	2 0	3 7				
	2		Hattie J. Hildreth	10 20	20 26	1 0	0 17				
4	1	Edwin P. Bartlett	Susie A. Holbrook	12 9	64 3	2 1	14 7 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	2		do.	14 12	26 1	2 2	11 9 $\frac{1}{2}$				
5	1	Carlos F. Huggins	Luzetta S. Comings	10 10	23 2	2 0	15 9				
	2		A. Louise Smith	9 12	19 7	2 1	15 11				
6	1	Stillman Coburn	S. Ann Bryant	12 34	41 0	2 0	46 26				
	2		Homer P. Lewis	8 51	96 0	2 0	17 44				
7	1	Manson Stevens	Ada E. Ayers	12 9	15 0	3 1	14 9				
	2		Martin L. Bruce	9 22	68 2	2 1	62 19				
8	1	Frank E. Freeman	Lettie E. Hook	10 12	16 16	2 0	29 10				
	2		Charles D. Nevens	12 19	46 32	2 1	12 13				
9	1	Register	not received.								
	2										
10	1	Martin Williams	Luella M. Freeman	11 20	23 0	2 0	12 17				
	2		do.	9 21	19 0	1 1	15 18				
11	1	Nathaniel Smith	Alice V. Powers	8 18	64 2	2 0	8 15				
	2		do.	9 19	81 7	1 1	18 16				
12	1	Oliver Russ	Jennie E. Sisson	9 5	0 0	2 0	29 4				
13	1	Merrill Coburn	Mary E. Churchill	11 18	18 3	1 0	10 15				
	2		Alice A. Austin	8 21	27 6	1 0	14 21				
15	1	John M. Root	Marion Rogers	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16	0 0	1 3	3 16				
16	1	George Dean	Melvina L. Fletcher	10 19	57 7	2 0	10 15				
	2		do.	12 24	95 3	2 1	6 16				

The above table is probably not entirely correct, as the Registers are not all filled out as they should be.

SPECIAL SCHOOL REPORT

BY DR. HUNT.

Being authorized by the Superintending School Committee to visit the Schools in Districts Number 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, at the close of the Winter term, I submit the following report. Visiting these schools only at their close, I cannot, of course, speak as confidently of their condition, as I could if I had also visited them at their commencement.

DISTRICT No. 2. Taught by Miss Page. From what I saw of this school I judged that it was well conducted. I considered the teacher able and faithful in the discharge of her duties, and, in the school room or out, "mistress of the situation."

DISTRICT No. 5. Taught by Miss Smith. I should think, from the appearance of this school, that a fair amount of progress was made, but that a more strict discipline would have enhanced the value of the school.

DISTRICT No. 6. Taught by Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis had here a large number of scholars to contend with, as well as to teach. It appeared as if about the usual amount of mental culture was obtained by the pupils in this school, which a pupilage of eight weeks can reasonably be expected to do. While the teacher seemed to expend his intellectual powers upon his pupils, I thought that he was rather too careful of his motive power, and cannot help thinking that, if he had judiciously intermingled thorough physical discipline along with his mental culture, leaning strongly to the former, that the result, upon the whole, would have been better. Mr. Lewis could not do justice to all his pupils, with such a large school, but under the circumstances succeeded fairly.

DISTRICT No. 7. Taught by Mr. Bruce. This school at the closing examination appeared well. It seemed as if the teacher was endowed with tact, skill and judgment, and that he infused into his pupils more than the ordinary amount of ambition to succeed, and advance in their studies. Reading was thoroughly taught; also geography and arithmetic. Map drawing was attended to with interest by the pupils. The closing examination was largely attended by the citizens of the district.

DISTRICT No. 8. Taught by Mr. Nevens. The day I visited this school was a very stormy one, and but few of the scholars present; from what I saw of the school I thought that good progress had been made. Map-drawing had been attended to, and some of the young pupils in geography had made good progress in the art.

DISTRICT No. 9. Taught by Miss Johnson. This school I found small, and the pupils young. Such a school cannot, of course, make much of an "Academic" appearance. I think that a fair amount of improvement was made during the term.

GEO. W. HUNT.

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